



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**June 19, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **State Board waives Fall ISAT testing for 2008-2009 school year**
- **Superintendent Luna names new Deputy Superintendent**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **STATE BOARD WAIVES FALL ISAT TESTING FOR 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna made a motion at the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday to waive Fall ISAT testing for the 2008-2009 school year and continue to waive the ISAT test for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in the upcoming year. The members of the State Board of Education voted unanimously to support Superintendent Luna.

Superintendent Luna issued the following statement regarding his vote:

“Assessments play an important role in measuring and improving student achievement in Idaho, but since testing takes time and resources, we must always look at whether we are spending our funds in the most efficient and effective way. When you look at what we are getting from the Fall ISAT right now, it does not justify the time and resources we are currently spending. I would rather see the Board use its limited resources to work toward reinstating the ISAT test for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in the 2009-2010 school year.”

The State Board of Education held its monthly meeting in Idaho Falls on Thursday, June 19. To learn more about the changes to ISAT testing for the upcoming school year, please visit <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/>.

### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA NAMES NEW DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced this week he has appointed Marybeth Flachbart to serve as the new Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement and School Accountability at the Idaho State Department of Education.



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“I am excited that Marybeth is joining the staff at the State Department of Education,” said Superintendent Luna. “She has extensive experience in all aspects of education and will be a great asset as we strive to raise student achievement and meet the needs of all students across Idaho.”

Flachbart will join the Department full time in September. The Division of Student Achievement and School Accountability, which is one of five divisions within the State Department of Education, oversees the No Child Left Behind, Special Education and Response-to-Intervention programs. The position was vacated in November 2007 when the former Deputy Superintendent took a job with the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

Flachbart worked at the Department in previous years as a Bureau Chief, Director of Reading First and the Reading Coordinator before leaving in 2006 to take a position as associate director of the Center for School Improvement at Boise State University. Before joining the State Department of Education for the first time, Marybeth was a member of the elementary education faculty at Boise State University. Prior to moving to Idaho, she served as a part of the teaching staff at the Neuhaus Education Center, a not-for-profit educational foundation in Houston that is dedicated to curricular research and professional development. Her classroom experience includes 10 years with the Houston Independent School District as a Reading Specialist and Reading Teacher Trainer. Marybeth holds a master's degree in Special Education from Fairfield University and is one of only 700 individuals nationally to be certified as an Academic Language Therapist. Other teaching endorsements include K-12 special education and Dyslexia Specialist. Flachbart is now working on her Ph.D. at Boise State University.

For more information on the organization of the State Department of Education, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/contact/> and download the organizational chart.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force meeting on Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the School Safety and Security vendor show at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 26 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Association of School Business Officials conference at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 27.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the ArtsPowered Schools Exhibit at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 27 in Caldwell.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Annual Applications for Title I - Part D** – Local Education Agencies and State Agencies should have their neglected or delinquent facilities complete applications by **June 30, 2008** through the Neglected or Delinquent website located here: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/neglected/>. Please contact Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant for the Neglected or Delinquent program at (208) 332-6942 or [TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov) for further information.



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- **McKinney-Vento Sub-Grant Application** – Districts and LEAs that would like to apply for McKinney-Vento Sub-Grants should submit their application by **June 30, 2008** through the Homeless Education Web page at [www.sde.idaho.gov/homeless](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/homeless). The Web site also has instructions on how to complete the sub-grant and the link to apply for the sub-grant are located on the SDE's Homeless Education website. If you have questions, please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or [TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov). All LEAs that are not planning to apply for a sub-grant should submit the Survey for LEAs without McKinney-Vento Sub-Grants, which is located on the Homeless Education Web page under "Survey Forms" subheading.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Summer Institute of Best Practices** – The State Department of Education is hosting the 2008 Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices in Idaho Falls and Wendell this summer. At these institutes, staff from the State Department of Education will be presenting on a variety of topics, including math curriculum, Response-to-Intervention, value-added grading, SIOP model and parental involvement. The regional institutes are scheduled July 28-29, 2008 at Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls and July 30-31, 2008 at Wendell High School in Wendell. The cost is \$100 for two days and includes handouts, continental breakfast, lunches and snacks. One credit will be available. Scholarships are available to help cover registration costs. To register online or to learn about scholarships, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/). The deadline to register is **July 1, 2008**.
- **IDLA Conference** – The Idaho Digital Learning Academy will host its 2008 conference from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at Northwest Nazarene University's Brandt Center Auditorium in Nampa. The conference, titled "Teaching the Digital Generation," is free of charge and will feature internationally acclaimed speaker and writer Marc Prensky and a session on "21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in Education and the Workplace." For more information, please visit [www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org](http://www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org) and click on the "Teachers" tab.
- **Comment on fingerprinting and background checks** – The State Department of Education is seeking public comment on a proposed rule that will help implement House Bill 566a, a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature earlier this year and amended Idaho Code 33-130 and Idaho Code 33-512(15). This law affects fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks for personnel working in school buildings. Since the Legislature passed this law, the State Department of Education has been working to write a Board rule that will help implement the changes and solidify past procedures the state has been using for the past 12 years. To review the rule, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/) and look under the "New" heading to open "Board Rule for HB 566a 5-22-08." After reviewing the rule, please submit your comments in writing to Shannon Haas at [SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov).
- **M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at BSU** – Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2008 cohort of the Leadership Development Program at Boise State University. The program begins each fall semester. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in previous undergraduate or graduate coursework and should have four years of full-time certified experience working with students in grades PreK-12 while under contract in a school setting. For more information, visit <http://education.boisestate.edu/cifs/CIgraduateMEd.htm> or contact Dr. Kathleen Budge at [kathleenbudge@boisestate.edu](mailto:kathleenbudge@boisestate.edu).



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- **Update McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contacts** -- All LEAs should check and make sure they have the appropriate homeless liaison listed that matches the McKinney-Vento assurances completed for the Consolidated Plan. The U.S. Department of Education requires each LEA to designate a person to act as a liaison whether or not they have homeless students. The IDCI is used to contact liaisons, but the list has been incomplete as not all LEAs are posting liaisons. Please update the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison by going to the IDCI Web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/idci/>. Enter the AYP password obtained from the district office and edit contact information. If you have questions, please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or [TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Health Education surveys** – If you are a secondary principals or lead health educators who received the 2008 School Health Education Profiles Survey, please remember to return the Profiles Surveys to the State Department of Education as soon as possible. You can mail the survey to the Department in the stamped envelope your received or fax it to the Department at (208) 334-2228 with “ATTN: Pat Stewart” clearly written on the fax. The Department uses the information to provide training and support to teachers and administrators. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pat Stewart, Health Coordinator, at (208) 332-6929 or [PLStewart@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:PLStewart@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Pre-registration is open until June 13, 2008 for the Attendance and Enrollment August Workshops. Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene
		Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the “Attendance and Enrollment Workshop” link listed under “Training” in the column to the right of the page.

- **Hispanic Education Summit** – The Idaho Summit on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students will be held July 24-25, 2008 at Boise State University in Boise. This event will provide educators, community leaders, policy makers, and interested members of the public with a forum for networking and exchanging information about current education issues and needs within Idaho’s Hispanic community. Registration is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Visit [http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education\\_summit.asp](http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education_summit.asp) to register online. If you have questions, please contact Lymaris Blackmon at the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs at (208) 334-3776.
- **Workshops for school bus technicians** – The State Department of Education’s Student Transportation office annual training for school bus technicians will be held July 15-17, 2008 at Boise State University. The workshop requires a registration fee of \$125, which will be reimbursable on your district’s annual reimbursement claim form under “travel expenses - registrations.” Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you have questions, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.





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- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is. Registration information is posted at [www.idahooccta.org](http://www.idahooccta.org) or you can contact Cathy Bournier with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.
- **Financial literacy curriculum and teacher training** – The NEFE Financial Planning Program is available to high school teachers of business, economics, family and consumer sciences, marketing, math and others. You can learn how to teach personal finance in your classes by using the free NEFE School Financial Planning Program Curriculum. Registration is free. Sessions are scheduled as follows: July 9 in Twin Falls, July 10 in Idaho Falls, July 15 in Lewiston, July 17 in Coeur d'Alene, and June 18 and 19 in Boise. For more information on summer dates, please contact: LaRaye O'Brien at the Idaho Credit Union League at (208) 343-4341 or [Lobrien@idahocul.org](mailto:Lobrien@idahocul.org); or contact Lyle Hansen, the University of Idaho Jerome County Extension Educator, at (208) 324-7578 or [lhansen@uidaho.edu](mailto:lhansen@uidaho.edu).
- **Teacher of the Month award** – Northwest Nazarene University and Peak Broadcasting are recognizing Treasure Valley teachers and the positive impacts they have on our children by presenting monthly a Teacher-of-the Month award on 630 KFXD All Talk Radio with Jon and Chris. To nominate a teacher, visit [www.kfxd.com](http://www.kfxd.com) and write a brief description on why he or she deserves this recognition. The awards will be announced on-air on the last Friday of the month. For more information, contact Northwest Nazarene University at (208) 467-8412.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **June 20, 2008** – The deadline for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) granted an extension for Consolidated Plan submission for Title I-A Basic, Title I-C Migrant, Title II-A Teacher Quality, Title II-D EETT, Title III English Language Acquisition, State LEP funds, Title IV Drug-Free Schools and Title V-A Innovative. All program funds applied for must be approved before payments can be released in any of the programs.
- **June 30, 2008** – The deadline to register for the State Department of Education's school bus driver trainings on "Student Behavior & Welfare." All workshops will be one full day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workshops are scheduled as follows: August 4 in Boise, August 6 in Blackfoot, August 8 in Burley, August 12 in Coeur d'Alene and August 14 in Lewiston. The workshop costs \$30 for driver trainers and \$20 for drivers, which will be reimbursable on your district's annual reimbursement claim form under "travel expenses – registrations." Register online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you are unable to register online, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to register for the State Department of Education's 2008 Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices. The regional institutes are scheduled July 28-29, 2008 at Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls and July 30-31, 2008 at Wendell High School in Wendell. To register online or to learn about scholarships, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/).



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- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's 2008 National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program, which identifies outstanding high school journalism teachers with at least three years' experience who have done exemplary work in the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information, visit <http://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **July 10, 2008** – Applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at [LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear). Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.